

AS

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 97-101-C - ORDER NO. 97-551  
JUNE 27, 1997

IN RE: Entry of BellSouth Telecommunications, ) ORDER ON  
Inc. into InterLATA Toll Market. ) BELL SOUTH  
 ) LONG DISTANCE  
 )

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Petition for Declaratory Order filed by MCI Communications Corporation, Sprint, AT&T of the Southern States, Inc. (AT&T), the South Carolina Competitive Carrier Association (SCCCA), and the Consumer Advocate for the State of South Carolina (the Consumer Advocate). The Petition requests that we inform the parties to this case as to the various rights of BellSouth Long Distance (BSLD) in this case, including its right to cross-examine witnesses of parties of record, its right to file testimony on its own behalf, including supplemental testimony, and BSLD's right and obligation to engage in discovery. BSLD filed a response to the Petition.

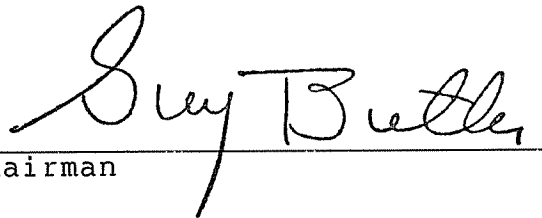
We must point out that this is a rather unusual case, in that rather than the usual situation where we have an Applicant, there is no Applicant in this case. Instead, we are merely performing a consultative role to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on our view of BellSouth's position under Section 271 of the

Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Accordingly, we hold that BSLD shall be considered a party of record in this case, and it can file testimony, including Supplemental testimony on June 30, 1997. Further, we hold that fairness dictates that BSLD should have the right to cross-examine witnesses for all parties, except BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. Allowing BSLD to cross-examine BellSouth witnesses would serve no useful purpose.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)